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MAXWELL/GUNTER NEWS

Chief serving in 'job of a lifetime'

New director of AFEHRI sets sights on future

By Carl Bergquist
Dispatch Staff Writer

Chief Master Sgt. Malcolm McVicar is living his "dream job."

The 22-year Air Force veteran, who began his career working on flightlines, reported for duty as the director of the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute on Gunter in October.

"I was in line for a command chief position, but I fought to get this job," said Chief McVicar. "I haven't been this happy with a tasking since I was a crew chief on a flightline."

An interest in history and enlisted heritage makes him feel "very comfortable" as AFEHRI director, he said.

Chief McVicar said his focus for the next 12 months would be on the new addition to the Enlisted Heritage Hall museum's exhibits and on expanding its research capabilities.

A new wing to the museum is under construction, which should be completed by the end of February, with a grand opening ceremony planned for the Memorial Day weekend.

To expand the institute's research database, the chief plans on pulling more than 200,000 pages of enlisted history out of its archives and posting them on its Web site. Although a time consuming process, archiving the history online would underscore AFEHRI's greatest asset: being the single source of research for Enlisted Professional Military Education, said the



Photo by Carl Bergquist

Chief Master Sgt. Malcolm McVicar stands among the monuments at the Enlisted Heritage Hall Plaza on Gunter. Chief McVicar became the new director of the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute in October.

chief.

“We have to be more than just a museum,” said Chief McVicar. “Our primary purpose is to support EPME, and we want to display more than mannequins wearing old uniforms. It is important for visitors to understand why an exhibit is significant to enlisted heritage and how depicted events contributed to the Air Force’s capability.”

Chief McVicar said he wants all EHH exhibits to have educational value through the use of graphics, informational kiosks and videos that tell the enlisted corps’ story. He also would like to provide virtual tours of the museum on its Web site as a service to those unable to visit in person.

He said it is also important to document the contributions today’s enlisted corps is making to Air Force history.

“There is no better time than now to preserve our ‘past’ and that is what we are doing,” said Chief McVicar. “Everyone who was ever in the Air Force has a piece of its history, and we need to collect and document that information.”

He said it is vital to capture what enlisted members are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan, such as the work of Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Lynn, from the Air Force Senior NCO Academy, who helped establish the first military security forces academy in Iraq in 2004.

“Uncovering those unique tidbits of information about the enlisted corps is one of the best parts of this job,” said Chief McVicar. “I can’t tell you how happy I was when the call came through for me to come to Gunter and do the ‘job of a lifetime.’”

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